World Food Programme

Why food aid?

No one who has seen photographs of starving children can soon forget them. Desperate young faces pleading for help, too weak even to cry.
At the World Food Programme we use food aid to end this suffering and reshape the future of the world's poor.
This food aid is not charity. It is a long-term investment in developing countries, so that one day there will be no more emaciated children, no more parents who have lost their children to hunger.

What is WFP?

The World Food Programme was created in 1963 as the food aid arm of the United Nations to help poorer nations feed their people and become self-sufficient. WFP now handles a quarter of the world's food aid and provides more help that directly reaches the poor than any other UN agency.

How we use food aid

Food for work...

WFP uses food aid to help pay poor people to work on government projects that can help them overcome their poverty. They build roads and schools; dig wells; plant trees; terrace hillsides; develop agriculture and industry. These projects allow developing countries to strengthen their economies so that one day they will no longer have to rely on international aid.

Feeding the vulnerable...

Babies and children are given WFP food aid at clinics to encourage their mothers to bring them for regular health checkups and vaccinations. Pregnant women receive food so they will have healthier babies. Schools are given food to provide meals for poor children to improve attendance and literacy.

A helping hand in emergencies...

WFP food rations have also meant the difference between life and death to millions left starving or homeless because of natural or man-made disasters. With its long experience in providing emergency aid, WFP mobilizes food quickly and delivers it to refugees from war and civil strife, and to the victims of drought, earthquakes, storms and other disasters.

Would you like to know more about our work?

Write to us:
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